communications module. The claims further recite "a session module, in communication with the data storage, to non-persistently connect to the communications module and directly manipulate the client database during the connection from time to time".

Jackson discloses a LAN database connected to the LAN via a backbone. Jackson never discloses a database located within a portable client device.

The Jackson patent discloses a LAN database (112) that connects to the remote/mobile servers (110) via the LAN (102). See Fig. 1, and columns 6 and 9. This database (112) is the only database mentioned in the description of the figures. See block 604 (Fig. 6A) and block 826 (Fig. 8) where the text identifies the database as being the database connected to the servers (110). Forms and updates to forms that are sent to the remote/mobile nodes (116) appear in the recipient's in-box and are displayed upon selection (column 3). A database is never described as located within the nodes (116). The user sends copies to others via a messaging service (column 2).

In the Office Action, the Examiner cited column 5, lines 1-7 and column 6, lines 32-56 as showing a client database. With respect to the first cite, Jackson does mention in the summary section that an underlying "database or spreadsheet program" may need to reside at the node in order for the user to use the form. Even if one were to imagine a database being located in a Jackson node, presumably the node would use the database offline with a form. With respect to the second cite, there is no mention of a client database in the portable client device. The Jackson patent does not state that the remote/mobile node has a client database for manipulation by the server session module during a non-persistent connection.

Manipulation by the server session module during a non-persistent connection is neither shown nor suggested by the LAN database (112) and "session module" of Jackson. Thus, the rejection of Claims 1-40 has been overcome.

The Examiner has stated that the server session module which directly manipulates the client database during the [non-persistent] connection as claimed by Applicant is disclosed by the cc:Mail product as the router software. The router software is stated as being scheduled to make calls to remote post office clients and remote mobile users periodically. The router software is stated as having the ability to query the scheduler to communicate with remote clients, and adding and deleting users to the mail directory. However, the router software does not directly manipulate the client database during the non-persistent connection.

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Furthermore, neither the Jackson patent nor the cc:mail product show a data storage at a server having databases where each database is associated with one or more tasks associated with a client application or is indicative of a relationship between the client application and the database as claimed in amended Claims 31, 33, 35 and 37. Therefore these specific claims are patentable on separate grounds from Claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, in view of the above, it is submitted that Claims 1-40 are clearly distinguished from the cited art and are patentable.

Conclusion

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the claims and has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are made in order to improve the clarity of claim language, to correct grammatical mistakes or ambiguities, and to otherwise improve the capacity of the claims to particularly and distinctly point out the invention to those of skill in the art. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-40 of the above-identified application are in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner finds any further impediment to allowing all claims that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 4/24/01

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The paragraph at page 1, line 4 to line 5 has been amended as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/665,422 filed June 18, 1996, which issued on January 5, 1999 as U.S. Patent No. 5,857,201.

In the Claims:

Claims 31, 33, 35 and 37 have been amended as follows:

31.   (AMENDED) The system of Claim 1, wherein the data storage comprises a plurality of databases, each database associated with a service one or more tasks associated with a client application or indicative of a relationship between the client application and the database.

33.   (AMENDED) The system of Claim 11, wherein the data storage comprises a plurality of databases, each database associated with a service one or more tasks associated with a client application or indicative of a relationship between the client application and the database.

35.   (AMENDED) The system of Claim 22, wherein the data storage comprises a plurality of databases, each database associated with a service one or more tasks associated with a client application or indicative of a relationship between the client application and the database.

37.   (AMENDED) The system of Claim 29, wherein a one of the data storages comprises a plurality of databases, each database associated with a service one or more tasks associated with a client application or indicative of a relationship between the client application and the database.